

- I) V10-12 INTRO: For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men?
False teachers called Judaizers have infiltrated the Churches of Galatia
Their chief aim was to mix God's grace with Jewish ceremonial and ritual law
- II) The result of this mixture was **religious bondage**
This mixture undermined the Grace of God
- III) On his first missionary journey Paul had planted these churches
This made him their **father in the faith**, and it made him **intensely concerned**
- IV) His concern was similar to what we saw in 2 Co 11
2 Co 11:2-4 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus **other than** the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** from the Spirit you received, or a **different gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.
- V) This is what is taking place in the churches of Galatia
They were **new believers**, so they were not yet rooted in Christian fundamentals
They were also **Gentiles**, and were not grounded in OT law
THE EFFECT
- VI) This made them vulnerable to the predators who had infiltrated the churches
The infiltrators were saying they need to be circumcised
They also taught that they need to obey the Law of Moses
SATAN ATTACKS NEW BELIEVERS
- VII) This is what led to his comments in V6-8
I am **amazed** at how fast you are turning **away from grace!**
I am **astounded** at how **you have believed** error and **deserted** the gospel
TRAGICALLY
- VIII) They were voluntarily **abandoning God** by embracing a perverted gospel
They were being taught salvation required **human assistance**
AS WE HAVE SEEN
- IX) In order to undermine the gospel of grace, they first attacked Paul
They began by questioning his apostolic credibility
They circulated a rumor that Paul had no **apostolic authority**

I) **First:** They said he was self-appointed, and his motivation was self-promotion
Second: They accused him of setting aside the Law of Moses by preaching grace **to make it easier** for Gentiles to become Christians, thus undermining the Law of God

II) This is something that he dealt with when he wrote his letter to the **Romans**
His opponents were saying that Paul made it **too easy** to be right with God
Today, we call it **cheap grace**

WHAT IS CHEAP GRACE?

III) **Cheap grace** is the preaching of forgiveness without repentance. Cheap grace is absolution without personal confession...cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, and grace without **Jesus Christ**, living and incarnate.

APPLICATION

IV) Today some think they can say a prayer, **continue sinning** but still go to heaven
This isn't true, because when you are saved you are **also transformed**

V) When you are truly born again, the Spirit of God dwells in you as His temple
Because you have been born again, sin no longer is to be your master
Ro 6:14 Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace!

VI) Because you have been born again, you no longer live a sinful life
1 Jn 3:9 No one born of God makes a **practice of sinning**, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

VII) God's grace was not given to us to **continue in sin** but to be **free from its power**
God's grace doesn't give us permission **to sin** but the power to have a new life
Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we **who died to sin** live any longer in it?

VIII) The false teachers were sowing seeds and discord
Their efforts were paying off and people began doubting Paul and the gospel
The questioning of his authority led to their doubting his motives
Because the gospel was of **such importance** Paul felt compelled to reply

BEGIN STUDY

IX) V10 For do I now **persuade** men, or God? Or do I seek to please men?
This is an answer to one of the charges lodged against him

Persuade: To strive to please, to win one's favor, to gain one's good will

- I) They are saying that Paul wants to be famous, so he softens God's demands
They are saying that he is seeking popularity, the mark of a false prophet
- II) The mark of a false teacher is tickling the ears of the people
Is 30:10 (they) have said to his messengers and prophets: Don't tell us what God has shown you and **don't preach the truth**. Just say **what we want to hear**, even if it's false
APPLICATION
- III) An earmark of **a false teacher** is a reluctance to present the whole counsel of God
God's word when taught reveals our hearts, and it is not always easy to handle
Heb 4:12 The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- IV) **Spurgeon**: I have never preached to you that you may **live in sin** if you **only** believe in Jesus: I have never preached that you shall be saved without being purified in heart. No, the salvation that this pulpit has proclaimed is not salvation **in sin** but salvation **from sin**, not a license **to evil** but a **deliverance from evil**
REMEMBER
- V) When false teachers entered Corinth, they lodged many accusations against Paul
One of the accusations was that he preached **for personal attention**
2 Co 4:5 For **we do not preach ourselves** but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake
- VI) Paul preached the gospel with the desire to honor and accurately proclaim God
He didn't change it to make it pleasing to men, but presented it clearly
Jer 23:29 "Is not My word **like a fire**?" says the LORD, "And **like a hammer** that breaks the rock in pieces?"
- VII) Paul did not compromise the gospel to make it **acceptable to man**
He preached the gospel that made man **acceptable to God**
1 Th 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be **put in trust** with the gospel, even so we speak; **not as pleasing men**, but God, who tries our heart
APPLICATION
- VIII) There is a very basic lesson we learn when we share **the whole counsel** of God
Though it may **appeal** to some, it also has a way of **repelling** others
Mt 10:35-36 I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother and a daughter in law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be in your household

- I) V10 For if ***I still pleased men*** I would not be a servant of Christ
This refers to before he was saved and still a persecutor of believers
By persecuting Christians, he resisted Jesus and pleased religious authorities
- II) When Paul came to faith in Jesus, ***he paid*** a great cost
1 Co 4:13 We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now
- III) As an influential Pharisee, Paul had received a certain amount of recognition
He was someone who was advancing in religious circles and was respected
THIS ENDED WHEN HE WAS SAVED
- IV) He left behind any desire for man's approval to hear the ***Well done*** by Jesus
Phil 3:18 I consider everything loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage that ***I may gain Christ***
- V) ***Knowing Jesus*** as my Savior and receiving forgiveness and righteousness ***is gain***
Mk 8:36-37 What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
- VI) V11 But ***I make known*** to you brethren that the gospel which was preached by me
I make known: You can believe this absolutely: I guarantee this, completely
POINT
- VII) The message I am preaching is not something I have altered to suit my needs
It is not built on my own inspiration, and does not rest on my human authority
FIRST
- VIII) V12 For I neither ***received it from man*** nor was I taught it but it came through
It is neither a tradition nor my own invention: ***It is a revelation***
- IX) This is aimed at the Judaizers: They received their instruction from ***Rabbis***
They leaned on man's traditional teachings on the commands of God
- X) This had the effect of blinding them to the ***true interpretation of scripture***
The result was that they were did not experience the grace of God
Mt 15:9 They worship Me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules
SECOND
- X) V12 Nor ***was I taught it*** (as a rabbinic student, in seminary)

- I) Paul was a trained rabbi, sitting at the feet of a great teacher: Gamaliel
He spoke of this when he gave his testimony
Ac 22:3 I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I **studied under Gamaliel** and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.
HIS POINT
- II) Neither Gamaliel nor the apostles taught me concerning the grace of God
I did not attend a rabbinic school designed to instruct me the doctrine of grace
HOW DID I LEARN THIS
- III) V12b But it came through the **revelation** of Jesus Christ
Revelation: Unveiling; disclosure; uncovering
DEVELOP
- IV) When Jesus confronted Paul on the road to Damascus, He did two things
He **revealed** Himself as Messiah and **directed** Paul's faith towards Him
Ac 9:4-5 (When Saul saw the light) he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? And he said **Who are You**, Lord? Then the Lord said, **I am Jesus** whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads
- V) The encounter with Jesus left Paul without sight as he was taken to Damascus
- VI) Saul was commanded to go to Damascus, where a man named Ananias lived
He stayed in a home owned by a man named Judas
God had in a vision seen Ananias lay hands on him so he would receive sight
- VII) The Lord said to Ananias to go and pray for Saul to be healed
Ac 9:15-16 (He told him) Go, for he is a *chosen vessel of Mine* to bear My name **before Gentiles**, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake
- VIII) Ananias obeyed and found Paul and prayed for him
Ac 9:17-18 (He told Paul) the Lord Jesus **who appeared to you** on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.
IMPORTANT
- IX) Before Paul was converted, he certainly was acquainted with the Gospel
He knew Christians said He was crucified, died, buried and resurrected

- I) He was present when the first Christian martyr, Stephen, was killed
He heard Stephen preach the gospel to the Jewish religious leaders
- II) Ac 7 records the message that Stephen gave, and the reaction of the authorities
Ac 7:58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.
Ac 8:1 Now **Saul was consenting to his death**
- III) Paul violently opposed the gospel: It took the Lord to convert him
- IV) V13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism
He reminds them of his personal testimony
HE WAS A PHARISEE!
- V) This means the message of grace isn't consistent with his former beliefs!
Instead of **embracing grace**, he violently opposed the message of grace
Ac 22:4 I persecuted this Way **to the death**, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women
- VI) V14 I advanced in Judaism beyond **many of my contemporaries** in my own nation
Advanced: I cut down anything in my path in my quest for righteousness
- VII) Paul was a premier student and extremely zealous for his religious faith
Phil 3:4-7 If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, **persecuting the church**; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.
NOTICE
- VIII) V14 He was zealous for the traditions of his fathers
Like his Jewish brethren he had a zeal, but not for the truth of the gospel
Ro 10:1-3 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they **have a zeal for God**, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God
- IX) V15 But when it pleased God **who separated me from my mother's womb**
GOD'S TIMING

- I) V15 When it pleased God who separated me from my mother's womb
This was something that God determined to do
Paul did not do something to deserve God calling him to salvation and service
- II) V15 It was God who separated him at birth to serve Him
God chose him, he isn't the one who chose God!
Ps 22:9-10 **You** are He who took me out of the womb; **You** made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. **I was cast upon You from birth**; From my mother's womb, **You have been my God**
- III) V15 and called me **through His grace**
Before and after I was born, God had determined to save me and use me
Jer. 1:5 **Before** I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."
- IV) This would also include the fact that he was thoroughly trained as a rabbi
His thorough training made him very capable of presenting the gospel
- V) V16 To **reveal His Son in me** that I might preach Him among the Gentiles
I did not respond to the Gospel, until Jesus met me on the Road to Damascus
That is when the Spirit convicted and drew him to faith in Jesus
HIS POINT
- VI) God saved him through Jesus and he preached Him to others, including Gentiles
He called me **through His grace**
And intended to use me to preach His word throughout the world
- VII) The Judaizers are placing themselves in the position of teaching and leading
They have no qualifications to do so and are in fact, preaching error
- VIII) No one is saved or given leadership in the church except through God's choice
- IX) Paul is establishing his call: It was entirely of God, and not of his own efforts
His calling came by God's grace
APPLICATION
- X) You cannot take this position through your own efforts, desires, or skills
HIS RESPONSE
- XI) V16 I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood

- I) V16 I did not seek out the other Apostle's, but spent personal time with the Lord
Man did not transform him, reveal Jesus to him, or call him to preach
Man did not equip him to preach, or prepare him to fulfill his calling: **God did**
GOD SAVED HIM AND GAVE HIM AN ASSIGNMENT
- II) He was to preach to the Gentiles the matchless grace of God, in Jesus
- III) Paul had the advantage of being raised in two cultures: Jewish and Gentile
He was Jewish, raised in Jerusalem and his training was under prominent rabbis
He was born in Tarsus (Turkey): had Roman citizenship and experience (Ac 22:3)
- IV) This gave him the ability to preach to both Jews and Gentiles
The Judaizers needed to know Gentiles did not need the Law, **but Grace**
- V) V17 Nor dd I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me
I didn't sit as a pupil under the Apostles: They were not above me in authority
I did not seek advice or clarification from any men as to what the gospel meant
- VI) V17 I went to Arabia (a region that stretched East of Damascus, Syria)
And returned again to Damascus
This would have been between the years he was saved and his visit to Jerusalem
- VII) V18-21 After three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and remained
When Paul was first saved, he immediately began preaching the gospel
Ac 9:19-20 Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he
began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God
- VIII) V18-19 This speaks of from when he preached in Damascus to his time in Arabia
After 3 years, he went to Jerusalem and met Peter and James, Jesus' brother
Mt 13:55-56 Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and
aren't his brothers **James**, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us?
HIS POINT
- IX) He went simply to meet them, not for their instruction
Ac 9:26-27 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they
were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him
and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the
Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached
fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

- I) V20 Now concerning the things which I write to you indeed before God I do not lie
He calls on God to be his witness to establish the truth of his claim
Everything: my education, religious upbringing, conversion and calling are true
- II) I call on God in the strongest terms to establish the truth of what I am saying
Ro 1:9 For **God is my witness**, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;
- III) V21 Afterward I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia
Syria is north of Israel and Cilicia was in southern Turkey
- IV) He made this journey because there were some who were after him
Ac 9:29-30 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

APPLICATION

- V) This reveals that the Christian faith is often met with persecution and violence
- VI) V22-23 And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ
What a testimony: A completely transformed life
THE RESULT
- VI) V24 They glorified God in him
They didn't glorify him, they glorified God
- VII) **Ellicott**: This verse reveals the proper attitude of Christian hero-worship. A great Christian is like a city set on a hill but the admiration that he attracts doesn't rest on him but is made the occasion for giving praise to God.